

***DRAFT - Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
Park Advisory Commission Meeting***

September 18, 2008

Strasburg Town Hall
Strasburg, Virginia

- I) Introductions
- II) General Management Plan
 - A) Planning status update—Stubbs
 - B) Draft subcommittee comments—Kittell
 - C) Briefing on agency Preferred Alternative—Stubbs
- III) Land protection status update; land acquisition discussion—Jacox and Stubbs
- IV) Review and approval of minutes from June 19, 2008
- V) Old Business
 - A) Handout Keister report and Bousquet notes
 - B) Web site update—Stubbs
 - C) Other?
- VI) New Business
 - A) Key Partner facilitated session, September 22—Jacox
 - B) New member orientation—Stubbs
 - C) Other?
- VII) Next meeting—December 18, 2008, Middletown, Virginia

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Mary Bowser; Gene Dicks; Patrick Farris; Randy Jones; Howard Kittell; Sarah Mauck; Elizabeth McClung; Gary Rinkerman; Pam Sheets; Jim Smalls; Kris Tierney, chair.

Commission members absent: Roy Downey.

Others in attendance: John Adamson, Belle Grove, Inc.; Catharine Gilliam, National Parks and Conservation Association; James Giraytys, James Madison University; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Wendy Hamilton, Preserve Frederick; Brent Laurenz, Civil War Preservation Trust; Rob Nieweg, National Trust for Historic Preservation; Linwood Outlaw, III, *Northern Virginia Daily*; and Chris Stubbs, NPS.

Chair Kris Tierney opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Chris Stubbs reported that the Draft GMP has been approved for printing and is being copy edited and formatted so that it can be sent to the Government Printing Office for printing.

Howard Kittell distributed the comments compiled by the FAC subcommittee on the GMP. Stubbs explained that the final commission comments will be added to those collected during the 90 day review period and incorporated into the final Plan. He stressed that everyone should

understand that the printed Plan, now in the process of being produced, will not include these comments but that they will be considered in the final, reviewed Plan.

Alternative D, which calls for the highest level of federal involvement among the four alternatives, has been selected as the preferred alternative. The National Park Service selected D because it is the alternative that best protects park resources and provides for quality visitor experiences. The backbone of the plan is the management zones, for this portion describes how the land is to be used now and into the future. The preferred alternative also sketches the broad outline of the relationship between the National Park Service and the Key Partners.

Both Jacox and Stubbs stressed that even though the plan has been approved for distribution and comment and that the plan call for the maximum federal involvement, the realities of the federal budget and Congressional priorities will play a role in exactly how the funding and commitment flow. Having the visitor center and land acquisition in the plan means these things are more likely should forces be favorable for such action in the future. Jacox reminded everyone that the 391 units of the park system compete for the available resources, and funding is tight. Nevertheless she remains cautiously optimistic that the acceptance of this alternative will help the park in time to establish its identity, for it provides for linking the parcels of land now owned by the key partners if willing sellers are available, and the plan also provides for a visitor center, which would be a great focus and unifying element within the park.

Members of the commission congratulated Jacox and Stubbs for their hard work in bringing the plan to fruition.

Catharine Gilliam of the National Parks and Conservation Association stated that she believes funding can be found for the park's needs and that her organization will be working to that end.

The minutes from the meeting on June 19, 2008, were approved as written.

Old Business

The Keister report and Professor Bousquet's presentation at the last meeting were distributed.

Stubbs showed the latest changes to the park web site.

New Business

Three facilitators will meet with twelve representatives of the Key Partners on September 22, 2008.

Howard Kittell announced that he would be leaving the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation on October 31, 2008. He has taken a position as the president of the Hermitage, Andrew Jackson's home outside Nashville, Tennessee. The board of the Foundation will begin a search for his successor soon. All commission members concurred in praising Howard Kittell for his commitment to preservation, to the Shenandoah Valley, and to the partnerships represented by this park.

The next meeting will be at the Middletown Town Hall, December 18, 2008.

Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Handouts

Draft subcommittee comments